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THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : This question is not engaging the attention of the Government just at present. When the question comes up before us, it will be examined and a decision will be taken. I may add that the authorities of the other University have not approached this Government so far.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Did not the Minister for Education, when he visited Kurnool, give an assurance that he would do his best to get the Madras University Degree for those students? Is it not a definite assurance given to them on behalf of this Government and has this assurance been implemented?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, this matter has been fully considered. The matter was referred to the Madras University. The University made a suggestion that instead of conferring another Degree, a Certificate of the Madras University could be given stating that the students had undertaken the Madras University course and they have passed the examination also conducted by the Madras University. This suggestion was forwarded to Anantapur for the opinion of the students there. But, they seem to prefer the Degree. So, the matter has been referred again to the Madras University for its consideration. We are awaiting a reply from the Madras University.

Distribution of sesbania seeds

* 3110 *Q*.—SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the quantity of sesbania seeds procured in Tanjore district during 1954–55 and 1955–56, and the price per bag;

(*b*) the germination percentage of those seeds;

(*c*) whether these seeds are compulsorily distributed in the districts other than Tanjore;

(*d*) whether the cost of the seeds is compulsorily collected from the maistries and fieldmen of the Agricultural Department, where the ryots are not willing to take the seeds; and

(*e*) whether the ryots have taken to border-planting of sesbania and if so, in what places and in what districts?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) During the financial year 1954–55, the Madras Agricultural Department procured about 4,153 bags of sesbania seeds in Tanjore district. During the current year, about 905 bags were procured in that district up to the end of September 1955. The price paid was Rs. 40 per bag of 160 lb.

(*b*) The germination percentage varies from 80 to 90 per cent.

(*c*) No, Sir.

(*d*) No, Sir.

(*e*) The practice of line planting of sesbania is prevalent in all the districts of this State.

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Sri V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIAR : Are the Government aware of the fact that these seeds are not now available even though many of the ryots want them?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : If the ryots want it, there will be no difficulty in supplying the same. But last year, the seeds had to be returned to Tanjore district as the ryots did not take advantage of the same.

10-10 a.m. Sri K. VINAYAKAM : Sir, will the Hon. Minister give any valid reason why there has been a fall in the demand for sesbania seeds in the current year? Is it not a fact that departmental instructions were issued to recover the cost from maistries and later they were reversed?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : No, Sir. The hon. Member is not correct in his presumption. Whenever I give reasons, they are always valid. I do not know what a valid reason should be. But I may tell the hon. Member that I have myself seen in the Tanjore district even yesterday that ryots are taking not only sesbania seeds but also other green manure seeds. That is how the demand for sesbania seeds is not very much.

Sri S. RAMALINGAM : கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் சொன்ன பதிலில் டிபார்ட்மெண்ட் மேஸ்திரிகள் இந்த விதைகளை கட்டாயமாக விற்கவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லி, விதைகளின் விலையை அவர்களின் சம்பளத்திலிருந்து பிடிக்கவேண்டுமென்று உத்தரவு போடவில்லை என்று சொன்னார்கள். ஆனால் நடைமுறையில் விதைகளை விற்றுத்தான் ஆகவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லி டிபார்ட்மெண்ட் மேஸ்திரிகளிடம் விதைகளை கொடுத்துக் கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் வீதைகளை விற்கிறார்களோ விற்கவில்லையோ, அவற்றின் விலையை சம்பளத்தில் பிடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறார்கள். இம்மாதிரி நடைமுறையில் நடந்து கொண்டிருப்பதை கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் கவனத்துக்கு நான் ஏற்கனவே கொண்டுவந்திருக்கிறேன் என்று நினைக்கிறேன். ஆகையால் இது விஷயமாக டிபார்ட்மெண்ட் சர்குலர் இல்லை என்று சொன்னாலும், நடைமுறையில் இம்மாதிரியான பழக்கத்தைத் தடுப்பதற்கு கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் முன்வரவேண்டும்.

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : இம்மாதிரி புகார் சர்க்காருக்குக் கிடைத்து, அதைப்பற்றி விசாரித்து இந்தப் புகாருக்கு ஆதாரமில்லை என்று சர்க்காருக்குத் தகவல் கிடைத்திருக்கிறது.

Eradication of untouchability

* 3111 *Q.*—Sri R. S. ARUMUGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many Deputy Sevaks and Assistant Sevaks have been selected as propagandists to eradicate untouchability in the State;

(*b*) how many of them are Harijans; and

(*c*) what is their scale of pay?